average storage. The post monsoon rainfall upto 31.12.2002 in the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Orissa and Maharashtra as per information supplied by India Meteorological Department are either deficient of scanty. The overall position in these States during 2003 however shall depend upon meteorological events during the year especially during the coming monsoon period.

(c) Notwithstanding the sugestions of Agricultural Scientists, Government of India is promoting rain water harvesting through watershed management programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting under sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of Ministry of Rural Development and in addition is also organizing training and mass awareness programmes to emphasize on the importance of rain water harvesting and its implementation. For meeting future requirements of water as a long term measure National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlining of various peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas.

Loss due to flood in North Bihar

†765. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of the plan if any for solving the problem of floods permanently which affects and causes loss of life and property on a large scale every year in North Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): Flood management being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, funding, executing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and operating flood control schemes rests with the concerned State Government. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical, catalytic and promotional in nature.

As the floods in North Bihar are generally caused by the rivers originating from Nepal, the Government of India is having a continuous dialogue with HMC/Nepal at various levels to mitigate the devastation caused by floods from rivers coming from Nepal. In this regard a Joint Inception Report in respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multi-purpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme has been finalized between India and Nepal and the Proposal for taking up field investigations and preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report through an Indo-Nepal Joint Project Office (JPO) has been recently approved by the Government of India. The Project will *inter-alia* have flood control benefits for the State of Bihar.

The proposal for construction of multi-purpose storage dams on river Kamla near Chisapani and on river Bagmati near Noonthar in Nepal is also under discussion with Nepal. Efforts to workout an understanding in this regard are in progress though Nepal feels that these projects may not be feasible because of social and environmental implications.

Further it's a non-structural measure to forewarn and manage flood disasters, a plan scheme namely, "Flood Forecasting and Warning System on rivers common to India and Nepal" has been in operation since 1989. This scheme was reviewed in May, 2002 wherein it has been agreed to increase the number of meteorological/hydrometric sites in Nepalese territory from 42 to 47. In addition Nepal has also agreed to transmit real time data in respect of 5 key hydrometric stations located on Gandak, Kosi, Rapti, Bagmati and Mahananda rivers which in turn has helped in making flood forecasts with increased warning times.